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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/064,105

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Michael W. Hawman

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30188

7590

10/08/2003

PRATT & WHITNEY

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EXAMINER

JARRETT, RYAN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2125

DATE MAILED: 10/08/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/064,105

Applicant(s)

HAWMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Ryan A. Jarrett

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 and 34-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 28-33 and 39 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 8/25/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants assert that Madden et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,516,239 ("Madden") fails to disclose the step of "generating a tag for affixing to the part". However, Madden does disclose an assembly identifier (e.g. col. 4 lines 21-34).

Applicants assert that Madden fails to disclose the step of generating output from the computer that "user reviews ... and handles ... accordingly". However, Madden discloses that operators on the assembly line can alter the build instructions and the positioning of parts "on-the-fly", or in real time (e.g. col. 22 line 47 – col. 23 line 17).

Applicants assert that Madden fails to disclose the step of "generating tailored work instructions". However, Madden discloses a database that stores build instruction data and installation instructions for the parts (e.g. col. 15 lines 33-54).

Applicants assert that Madden fails to disclose the step of "determining whether the second part disposition requires adjustment of the first part disposition". Madden discloses altering the downstream positioning of different parts based on the disposition or priority of the parts (e.g. col. 4 lines 45-54).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

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applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23-25, 27, and 34-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Madden et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,516,239. Madden et al. discloses a computerized method of assisting the routing of a part, comprising the steps of: providing at least one computer; receiving part identifier information; and generating a tag for affixing to said part, said tag having information thereon responsive to said part identifier information; wherein a user reviews said information on said tag and routes said part accordingly; wherein said part identifier information includes a part number; wherein said part identifier information also includes a serial number; further comprising the step of generating an electronic record of said part; further comprising the steps of: evaluating a characteristic of said part based upon said information on said tag to determine a disposition of said part; receiving said disposition of said part; and generating a new tag for affixing to said part, said tag having information thereon responsive to said part characteristic; wherein said user can review said information on said tag and route said part accordingly (e.g. col. 4 lines 21-34, col. 7 lines 29-42, col. 8 lines 1-8, col. 9 lines 1-32, col. 11 lines 57-65, col. 12 lines 22-27, col. 15 lines 33-55, col. 16 lines 29-64);

a computerized method of assisting the handling of a part, comprising the steps of: providing at least one computer; receiving part identifier information; processing said part identifier information; and generating output from said computer responsive to said part identifier information; wherein a user reviews said output and handles said part

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accordingly; wherein said output comprises routing instructions; wherein said output comprises work instructions; further comprising the steps of: receiving a disposition of said part in response to said output; processing said part disposition; and generating output from said computer responsive to said part disposition (e.g. col. 4 lines 21-34, col. 7 lines 29-42, col. 8 lines 1-8, col. 9 lines 1-32, col. 11 lines 57-65, col. 12 lines 22-27, col. 15 lines 33-55, col. 16 lines 29-64);

a computerized method of tailoring work instructions to perform on a part, comprising the steps of: providing at least one computer having memory with global work instructions therein, said global work instructions relevant to a plurality of parts and to a plurality of work locations; receiving part identifier information and work location information; processing said part identifier information and said work location information; and generating tailored work instructions from said computer responsive to said part identifier information and said work location information; wherein a user reviews said tailored work instructions and performs said tailored work instructions accordingly; wherein said processing step comprises searching said global work instructions for tasks relevant to said part and said work location; wherein said part identifier information includes a part number; wherein said part identifier information also includes a serial number (e.g. col. 4 lines 21-34, col. 7 lines 29-42, col. 8 lines 1-8, col. 9 lines 1-32, col. 11 lines 57-65, col. 12 lines 22-27, col. 15 lines 33-55, col. 16 lines 29-64);

a computerized method of dispositioning of parts, comprising the steps of: providing at least one computer; receiving part identifier information for a first part;

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determining a disposition of said first part responsive to said first part identifier information; receiving part identifier information for a second part to said computer; determining a disposition of said second part responsive to said second part identifier; determining whether said second part disposition requires adjustment to said first part disposition; and if necessary, modifying said first part disposition; wherein a user reviews said first and second part dispositions and dispositions said first and second parts accordingly; wherein said part identifier information includes a part number; wherein said part identifier information also includes a serial number (e.g. col. 4 lines 21-34, col. 4 lines 45-54, col. 7 lines 29-42, col. 8 lines 1-8, col. 9 lines 1-32, col. 11 lines 57-65, col. 12 lines 22-27, col. 15 lines 33-55, col. 16 lines 29-64);

a method of assisting the handling of a part, comprising: determining information about a part; inputting said part information into a computer; receiving output from said computer, wherein said output is responsive to said input and assists with the handling of said part; wherein said information includes a part number; wherein said information also includes a serial number; further comprising the step of generating an electronic record of said part (e.g. col. 4 lines 21-34, col. 4 lines 45-54, col. 7 lines 29-42, col. 8 lines 1-8, col. 9 lines 1-32, col. 11 lines 57-65, col. 12 lines 22-27, col. 15 lines 33-55, col. 16 lines 29-64).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 15, 19, 22, 26, 28, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madden et al. as applied to claims 1, 12, 14, and 23 above. Madden et al. does not specifically disclose that the part is a "gas turbine engine part". Madden does disclose that the part can be an automobile engine. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Madden et al. to process "gas turbine engines" in order automate production and part routing in an airplane engine assembly line.

Election/Restrictions

6. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-27 and 34-38, drawn to product tracking and identification controlled work operations, classified in class 700, subclass 115-116.
- II. Claims 28-33 and 39, drawn to maintenance, repair, overhaul, and teardown methods, classified in class 702, subclass 184.

7. Newly submitted claims 28-33 and 39 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

Independent claim 28 is drawn to a ***maintenance, repair, or overhaul operation on a part of a gas turbine engine*** having a tag thereon, wherein the improvement comprises no other paperwork being shipped with said part.

Independent claims 30 and 39 are drawn to a method in assisting in the ***teardown of a product***, comprising: generating a ***list of possible part ID information*** for the product; selecting from the list part ID information corresponding to a part

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removed from the product; and adding the part ID information to an ***as-received database***.

Conversely, the original independent claims were merely drawn to methods of routing parts and tailoring work instructions to perform on the parts base on part ID's. The newly added claims are drawn to specific maintenance and overhaul operations.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 28-33 and 39 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of


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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan A. Jarrett whose telephone number is (703) 308-4739. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on (703) 308-0538. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



raj
October 5, 2003

LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100